

Gallaudet Fact—

Q: The 10th annual Academic Bowl competitions are upon us. How many times has our own MSSD been the Mid-Atlantic Regional Academic Bowl Champions? How many times have they won the National Academic Bowl championship title?

Answer on page 2.

I. King Jordan Lecture Series begins

Dr. Freeman Hrabowski, president of the University of Maryland, Baltimore County, will present "Academic Leadership: Creating a Climate of Success for All Students," on Friday, February 17, at noon in Swindells Auditorium. Hrabowski's research and publications focus on science and math education, with special emphasis on minority participation and performance. The second speaker in the series, noted author and professor of linguistics Deborah Tannen, will present "Gender and Language: Women and Men, Mothers and Daughters" on Thursday, March 9 at 10 a.m. in Swindells Auditorium. Gallaudet established the I. King Jordan Lecture Series to honor President Jordan's many years of distinguished service at the University. In recognition of his leadership in achieving excellence, speakers who have made outstanding contributions in their fields are being invited to address the Gallaudet community throughout this year. Local, national, and international scholars and leaders—including those from Gallaudet—will be part of this series.



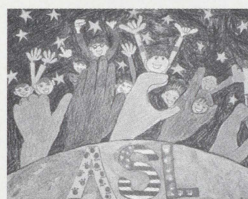
Members of a modern jazz dance class follow along as professional dancer Shaun Parry (center) demonstrates a movement. Parry, who is hearing and taught the class in ASL, made time for the January 31 free class between his performances in the show *Damn Yankees* to share his talents with the Gallaudet community. Gallaudet Dance Company Assistant Director Susan Gill-Doleac, Dance Company members, and students interested in learning new dance moves participated. By the end, the class had mastered a routine that combined high energy modern jazz with the technique of the late, legendary choreographer Bob Fosse. "I felt like I was back on Broadway," said Gill-Doleac.

IN THIS ISSUE



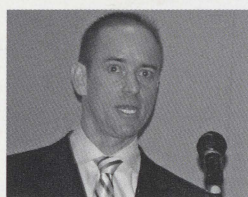
Roving Reporter

Larisa Aranbayeva and others talk about the qualities they feel are most important in the next president of Gallaudet University.

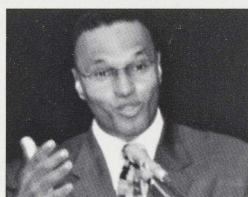


Clerc Center Happenings

Lily McNamara's award-winning artwork on the theme of "Hand Art-Communicating with Sign Language."



Dr. David Sawyer, diplomatic interpreter and translator at the U.S. Department of State, gave a January 27 presentation at Gallaudet.



Campus Calendar

I. King Jordan Lecture Series presenter Dr. Freeman Hrabowski.

ON THE GREEN

FEBRUARY 17, 2006 • VOL. 36. NO. 8

On the Green—A publication for Gallaudet faculty, teachers, and staff
Gallaudet University • 800 Florida Avenue NE, Washington, DC 20002-3695

President Jordan updates campus on Bush administration's FY 2006 federal budget proposal; PART report

(Note: The following is a February 6 email memorandum from President Jordan to the campus community.)

"... Today the Bush Administration's FY 2007 federal budget was made public by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB). The Administration requests an appropriation of \$107 million for Gallaudet, the same amount we received in our FY 2006 appropriation. That the Administration included \$107 million for Gallaudet, a straight-line request, is good news, particularly in light of the fact that the total appropriation request for the U.S. Department of Education (ED) was reduced by nearly 30%. Of course, this is just the first step in the federal budgeting process that leads to our final appropriation by Congress—but it is an important step.

"Also released today was the 2006 PART report. PART is the Program Assessment Rating Tool, a process that OMB put into place a few years ago as

part of the Bush Administration budget process. One section of this report names federally supported programs deemed ineffective. A program called "Federal Support for Gallaudet University" was among those judged ineffective by OMB. My dismay over the title of the report and its conclusion was only partially relieved after I reviewed the document and found that it is both an evaluation of the University and the Department of Education's [ED] oversight of Gallaudet's federal support. The report's name and the misleading assessment it presents could cause readers to believe the rating refers only to Gallaudet.

"The Provost and I knew that the OMB assessment was taking place over the past year. But when we inquired about Gallaudet's participation in the process we were told it was primarily about the ED's oversight responsibilities, and that we were not invited to participate in meetings, help interpret data, or even allowed to comment on preliminary findings. In other

words, we had no direct involvement in the OMB assessment.

"Fortunately, the PART rating had no negative impact on Gallaudet's appropriation request, but it could have a temporary effect on the University's image. That is why it is important for every member of the campus community to understand the true purpose of the OMB report, which is to evaluate the ED's oversight responsibilities relative to Gallaudet's federally funded programs. Gallaudet has been serving people who are deaf and hard of hearing for nearly 150 years and our thousands of successful alumni are proof that, regardless of what this report says, ours is an extraordinarily effective University.

"I have already protested the PART rating and the process by which it was produced to the Director of OMB and the Secretary of Education. I have had several meetings and phone conversations with our friends on Capitol Hill to share my

continued on page 4

Deadline extended for worldwide survey gauging deaf people's use of communication technology

Deaf people all over the world are being asked to participate in a research project about the deaf community's use of new communication technology.


The results of the project, "A Survey for Deaf People: Using SMS, TTYs, Relay Services, Fax and Computers," led by Dr. Des Power of Griffith University and Dr. Mary Power and Louise Horsmanshof of Bond University in Queensland, Australia, will provide more understanding and publicity about deaf people and their communication uses and needs.

The survey leaders have extended the deadline to March 31 in hopes of increasing the pool of respondents. It can be found at: www.surveymaker.com.au/sm/survey.cfm?survey=1243.

By answering the survey, the researchers will know that the respondents agree to the research. Questions may be addressed to Power at

d.power@griffith.edu.au

The *Journal of Deaf Studies and Deaf Education* has published the researchers' first paper on deaf people's use of Short

Message Service (SMS). The paper can be read at: deafed.oupjournals.org/cgi/reprint/9/3/333?ijkey=BXY7uKxqiBAw&keytype=ref&siteid=deafed 

Dr. Dragana Barac-Cikoja, research scientist II in the Gallaudet Research Institute, discusses the findings of her study on how people listen and watch when they use language, either spoken or signed, in a February 1 presentation entitled "Effects of Hearing Loss on Self-Hearing During Speech Production." Barac-Cikoja, whose Ph.D. is in experimental psychology, is interested in the area of perception and language. She is currently investigating auditory processing of self-generated speech feedback and continues to develop techniques for studying visual and "haptic" (i.e., touch and movement sensations) self-monitoring during sign production. She has done research on visual and haptic space perception, and psycholinguistics. Barac-Cikoja's current research project was funded by the Gallaudet Research Institute's Priority Research Fund and the Rehabilitation Engineering Research Center on Hearing Enhancement. Her presentation was part of the GRI First Wednesday Research Seminars, which sponsors lectures by faculty, staff, and visiting scholars at Gallaudet. These lectures cover various topics from current or recent research to personal impressions of current developments in deaf and hard of hearing-related issues.



Administration & Finance
The 28th Annual GCRC Awards and Recognition Program; EOP web page

The Gallaudet Community Relations Council (GCRC) will host its 28th Annual GCRC Awards and Recognition Program on April 8 at 6 p.m. in the Kellogg Conference Hotel. This year's theme is "Building Relationships to Strengthen Community." President Jordan will be the keynote speaker.

The purpose of the program is to award and recognize individuals and organizations that have made significant contributions toward improving the quality of life for residents of the Near Northeast Community and strengthening the relationship between Gallaudet and the community. The Council has invited community organizations to honor people from their organization or other individuals who are deserving of such recognition.

The GCRC was organized in 1975 to provide an ongoing means of communication between the University and the community. Since its inception, the two entities have continued to foster a positive working relationship with the residents of the community through programs and activities. The Council consists of representatives from the University, civic organizations, the Police Department, and private industry. Both the community and the University have benefited from the significant contributions made by the Council.

The campus community is invited to attend the dinner program. Tickets will be available for purchase in March. Contact Chrisleen Dixon, chrisleen.dixon@gallaudet.edu or call x5075 for further information.

Equal Opportunity Program web page

The Equal Opportunity Program (EOP) Office now has a web page that can be accessed using the following URL: af.gallaudet.edu/eop/eop.asp

People who wish to contact Sharrell McCaskill, director of EOP, can call her at x5462. Her office is in College Hall, Room #312. To schedule an appointment, call x5075. ■

Children's dance classes

The National Deaf Dance Academy, now in its 20th year, will offer dance classes to deaf, hard of hearing, and hearing children, ages 4-12, on Friday afternoons in the Movement Room at KDES, starting Feb. 24.

Class Offerings: Dance and Tumbling for tots (ages 4-5), 4:15-5 p.m.; Ballet, Tap, and Hip-Hop Jazz (ages 6-9), 3:15-4:15 p.m.; Jazz-Funk (ages 10-12), 5-5:45 p.m.

The instructors are Tara Downing and Irvine Stewart. The fee is \$64 for eight weeks. On-going registration is being held in the Physical Education and Recreation Department, Field House, Main Office, Room #102.

For more information, call x5591 or email susan.gill-doleac@gallaudet.edu.

Gallaudet becoming a popular field trip destination

By David Tossman, Visitors Center Coordinator

Junior high school and high school students love to go on field trips and get a day away from school. They go to the Smithsonian museums, the zoo, the science center—and Gallaudet. That's right, Gallaudet is increasingly becoming the place of choice for field trips.

These students mostly come from public schools in Virginia, but also come from public and private schools in Maryland, Washington D.C., New York, Washington state, Florida, and other states. They are studying various cultures and learning sign language; in Virginia, American Sign Language is recognized as a foreign language, and is becoming an increasingly popular class. Maryland, however, does not recognize ASL as a foreign language.

People on campus may have seen large groups of these students walking around Kendall Green, eating in the Cafeteria, and visiting the Bookstore. The students usually arrive in the morning with their teacher and several chaperones, and have a Deaf Awareness Presentation given by one of the Student Tour Guides. During the presentation, the students learn about ways people can become deaf; how to get a deaf person's attention; what types of jobs deaf people have; learn how deaf people know when someone rings the doorbell, when the phone is ringing, or when a baby is crying; learn that deaf people can drive; and, of course, they learn that deaf people don't like to be called hearing impaired.

Many of the students come armed with questions such as: "Do your hands get tired from signing all day?," "How long does it take to learn sign language?," and "How do you feel about cochlear implants?" At the end of the presentation, the students are told a few jokes to get a sense of what deaf culture is about, such as the one about the deaf couple that checks into a hotel. (The wife goes up to the room while the husband parks the car. Then the husband realizes he doesn't know the room number so he beeps his horn and every light comes on except one.)

After the presentation, the students eat lunch in the Cafeteria and sometimes have a scavenger hunt. Many of the schools also bring donations to the Clerc Center's Shared Reading Project.

The Visitors Center receives many positive letters from the students who visit. A recent batch came from Farmwell Station Middle School in Ashburn, Virginia.

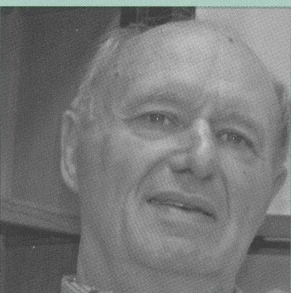
Sarah Klett said, "A lot of the people at Gallaudet were very friendly. I learned so many things, including the fact deaf people can do anything (except hear, of course) that hearing people can do." Gaurav Gupta said, "We really liked your jokes! They were so good after I told my mom and dad they were laughing like crazy!" TJ Pruden said, "I thought it was very interesting that deaf people usually have better driving records than people who are not deaf." Quinci Cuthbert said, "Everyone at Gallaudet was so friendly. They all made me feel welcome."

Andrew K said, "I would recommend this trip to others wanting to know where to go on a trip." Gemma Birdie said, "I hope I will get a chance to visit Gallaudet University again and now I want to learn more sign language in high school."

But the students gave their highest praise to the Cafeteria. Mairead Cooper said, "The cafeteria had delicious food, much better than our school's plastic food. The pizza was hot and the brownies were really tasty. I strongly recommend to my classmates that they visit Gallaudet because it is fun and educational." ■

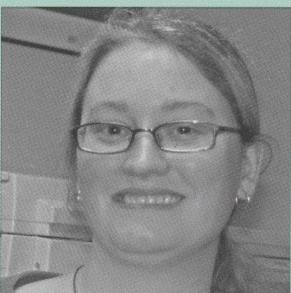
Gallaudet Fact—
A: MSSD won the Mid-Atlantic regional competition four times—1997, 2000, 2001, and 2002. The Model team became national champions twice—2000 and 2001. The only other team to win at the national level twice is the California School for the Deaf, Fremont.

Roving Reporter
What are the top characteristics you would like to see in Gallaudet's next president?



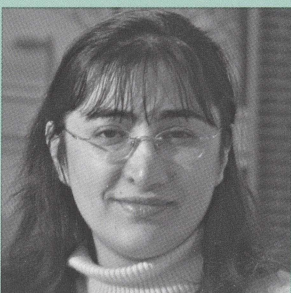
"Integrity and ability, skills, and experience working with the federal government."

Dr. E.R. Dreher, chair, Physical Education and Recreation



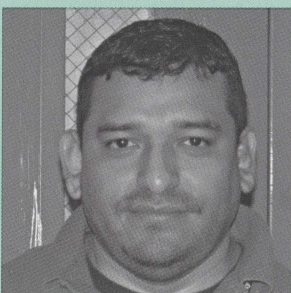
"Good leadership and the ability to bring more recognition to the deaf community."

Anna Nord, student accounts representative



"An understanding of deaf culture and sensitivity to the needs of international students."

Larisa Aranbayeva, social work graduate student



"Flexible and fair to all groups on campus."

Sigfrido Fortiz, maintenance mechanic

ON THE GREEN

Kendall Green
Gallaudet University
800 Florida Avenue, NE
Washington, DC 20002-3695

Published bi-weekly for the staff, teachers, and faculty of Gallaudet University by the Office of Public Relations.

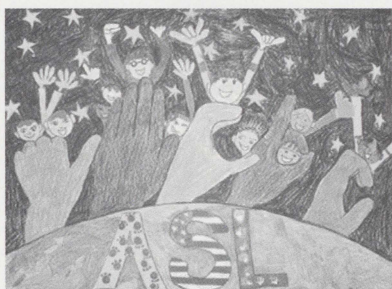
Publications Manager
Roz Prickett
Editor & Photo Editor
Todd Byrd
Writer
Rhea Yablon Kennedy
Contributors
Mercy Coogan
Darrick Nicholas
Design/Production
Graphic Design & Production
Printing
BelJean Printing

Gallaudet University is an equal opportunity employer/educational institution and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, sex, national origin, religion, age, hearing status, disability, covered veteran status, marital status, personal appearance, sexual orientation, family responsibilities, matriculation, political affiliation, source of income, place of business or residence, pregnancy, childbirth, or any other unlawful basis.

98-342M

Clerc Center Happenings

KDES students win awards in Sorenson Communications Art Contest



Lily McNamara won first place for her picture, "We are Proud of ASL," in the Elementary School Category. Franco Maddox won runner-up honors in the same category for his picture, "Our Language-ASL."

By Susan M. Flanigan

Two KDES students were among the top prize winners in Sorenson Communications' first Communications Art Contest for deaf and hard of hearing elementary, middle, and high school students. Over 300 students submitted artwork on the theme of "Hand Art-Communicating with Sign Language."

Lily McNamara, a Team 6/7/8 student, won first place in the Elementary School Category for her work, "We Are Proud of ASL." Student Franco Maddox, a Team 4/5 student, was the runner-up in the Elementary School Category for his work, "Our Language-ASL." The students were awarded \$750 and \$500, respectively, for the school to use to purchase art materials.

The artwork was judged by Sorenson Communications employees. The three

winning pieces from each school category will be displayed at the Sorenson corporate offices in Salt Lake City, Utah, for public viewing.

Sorenson Communications is a leading provider of video relay services and products for the deaf and hard of hearing community. "The response to the art contest far exceeded our expectations," said Pat Nola, president and CEO of Sorenson. "The students and teachers at the deaf schools thoughtfully considered the project and supported it with the same kind of enthusiasm we often see from the deaf community. We are committed to supporting the deaf community and we know that the cash prizes will assist the winning schools to purchase needed supplies."

To view the artwork, visit: www.sorensonvrs.com/company/art.php

Works by deaf filmmakers wanted for televised film festival

WETA, CINE, and Gallaudet are looking for films made by deaf filmmakers living and working in the United States to be part of a special on-air film festival and screening event. Deaf filmmakers are encouraged to submit short films or videos, three to 12 minutes in length, on any topic.

All genres are welcome: animation, documentaries, films for children, experimental work, etc. All submissions will be screened by a panel of film and video professionals.

Selected entries will be included in an on-air film showcase which will broadcast on WETA, TV-26, this fall. A screening event will be held in Washington, D.C., around the time of the broadcast.

To enter, return a completed submission form and video, www.weta.org/pdfdocs/deafcinema_submission.pdf, to the WETA Creative Services department, postmarked by June 30. Entry is free.



Friends and family of Rosa Mann, executive secretary in the Athletics Department, gathered to wish her good luck at a December 15 retirement reception in the SUB multipurpose room. Lady luck was a major player at the reception's casino-based theme: Mann is a skilled card player and is passionate about visiting casinos, especially in Las Vegas, Nev. Mann began her career at Gallaudet in 1980 in the College of Arts and Sciences. She moved to the Admissions Office in 1987, and to Athletics in 2001. Here, Dean of Student Affairs Carl Pramuk (right) and Athletics Director James DeStefano express sentiments that the odds will always be in Mann's favor as she moves on to an exciting new phase of life.



Dr. David Sawyer, diplomatic interpreter and translator for German at the Office of Language Services, U.S. Department of State, gave a January 27 presentation at Gallaudet entitled "Higher, Faster, Stronger: Action Research as a Means to Achieve Change in Language Interpreting." Sawyer leads interpreter training courses for the Department of State, and is the 2005 recipient of the Meritorious Honor Award of the Department of State for his contribution to meeting the new interpreting needs of the president, secretary of state, and federal government. He discussed how action research—defined as a qualitative, participatory methodology incorporating action and critical reflection, with the goal of social change—can serve as a tool to make the acquisition of interpreting competence more systematic and targeted and less haphazard and contribute to the implementation of best practices. Sawyer's talk was the first in the Department of Interpretation's Lecture Series for the spring semester. The Department of Interpretation Lecture series is sponsored by the Potomac Chapter of the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf, Gallaudet Interpreting Service, the Gallaudet Research Institute, and the Gallaudet University Regional Interpreter Education Center. (Also pictured is Carolyn Ressler, GIS interpreter.)

Student Affairs

'Encouraging Civility on Campus'

By Oscar Ocuto, Judicial Affairs program specialist, and Eloise Molock, Student Development Programs director

A group of Gallaudet staff and administrators recently attended the 2006 Paperclip Communications Conference, "Encouraging Civility on Campus," hosted by American University. The conference was described as "a ground-breaking seminar where civility experts and practitioners converge to discuss this very present problem."

The participant list read like a "Who's Who" list in higher education, with titles ranging from vice president for student affairs, provost, dean of students, executive director, director of public safety, director of campus life, director of counseling services, registrar, and institutional researcher. Participants were from four-year liberal arts colleges and universities as well as community colleges. While most were from up and down the East Coast, others traveled from as far away as Canada.

Each conference attendee received a copy of the book authored by the renowned ethicist P.M. Forni, *Choosing Civility: The Twenty-Five Rules of Considerate Conduct*, an Everyman's guide to civility. Forni advocates that civility is a "code of decency" and that it means to be constantly aware of others as well as weaving restraint, respect, and consideration into this very fabric of awareness. By increasing awareness about uncivil behaviors, we also increase awareness about civility itself. When we say "please" and "thank you" or "good day," these messages convey respect and a positive attitude for those around us. When we see a piece of trash on campus and pick it up and throw it away, we are engendering civility in the sense of respect for our community.

In his keynote address, Forni shared statistics that showed 1.8 million people a year in this country fight in the workplace. This is representative of a lack of respect within individuals that relent to stress, moral compunction, and the extinguishing of positive self-image. To quell the surge of incivility, Dr. Forni suggests we seek ways to:

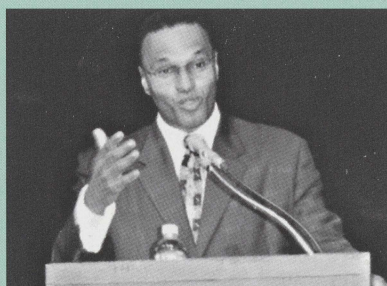
- Improve the living conditions and prospects of the poor and the disenfranchised;
- Rediscover the teaching of civility and good manners as an invaluable tool to improve everybody's quality of life;
- Create opportunities for connection among the members of our communities in order to curb the trend toward more and more anonymity—in other words, revitalizing civil society; and
- Lower the amount of stress in everyday life, especially in the workplace.

Through encouragement and positive reinforcement of the above precepts, civility will continue to spread within the ranks of our community, and we will be engendering a day-to-day sense of well-being on campus. As an institution whose success is measured by the quality of students we graduate and send into the world to become productive citizens, it is imperative that we internalize the concept of encouraging civility on campus. We must be committed to making civility the cornerstone of every program, activity, event, and service that we provide to our students. To do less than this will be a grave injustice toward our students and will no doubt have a resounding ripple effect on our global society.

Dr. Jordan reports on Bush administration's budget proposal; PART

continued from page 1

concerns about PART and I will continue to work with them as I develop a response to OMB and ED. Of course I will also keep the community informed about the FY 2007 budget as it progresses towards final authorization. And as always, I will continue to work closely with Congress, our Board of Trustees, and others to ensure that Gallaudet receives the support it needs and deserves to carry out its unique educational mission on behalf of people who are deaf and hard of hearing." ■



Dr. Freeman Hrabowski, president of the University of Maryland, Baltimore County, will present "Academic Leadership: Creating a Climate of Success for All Students," on Friday, February 17, at noon in Swindells Auditorium. Hrabowski's research and publications focus on science and math education, with special emphasis on minority participation and performance.

Campus Calendar

February

17—I. King Jordan Lecture Series presentation by Dr. Freeman Hrabowski, noon, Swindells Auditorium; Graduate School Open House, 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m., SAC MPR

17-18—MSSD's 24th Annual Winter Dance Concert, "Danza Latina", featuring MSSD students and guest artists performing a variety of modern dance genres. For ticket information, email anna.hall@gallaudet.edu

21—New Gallaudet Faculty and Staff Meeting, noon-1 p.m., HMB E150

22—Linguistics lecture by Dr. Jeffery Davis—"A Comparative Historical Linguistic Assessment of Signed Language Varieties among North American Indians," 11:45 a.m.-12:45 p.m., SAC 1011; Eisenhower Transportation Scholars Forum—"Helping Many by Helping Few: Using Universal Design to Improve the Transportation Issues for the Residents of Gallaudet University and the Surrounding Community," 12:30-1:30 p.m., SUB 1010

23—Distinguished Faculty Lecture, by Dr. Shirley Shultz Myers—"One Intersection on the Route to 21st Century Learning: Road Stop Reflections," 11 a.m.-1 p.m., Foster Auditorium

24—Linguistics lecture: "A Rosetta Stone Approach to Translating Native American Sign Language," 10:30 a.m.-noon, SAC 1011

March

1—GradFest 2006, 11 a.m.-6 p.m., SUB MPR; GRI First Wednesday Research Seminar, by Hilde Haualand—"Transnational Connections in Deaf Worlds," noon-1 p.m., SAC 1011; World Deaf Leadership Scholarship information session, 7-8 p.m., SAC 2222

2—Undergraduate open house, 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m., various locations

Ask Aunt Sophie

Dear Aunt Sophie,

I happened to mention to a group of my co-workers that I don't make my bed every morning before I come to work, that I only make it on Saturday when I change the sheets. One of the people in the group was my supervisor and she reacted as if I'd just admitted to the most horrible crime or deviant behavior. She lost it—started in about no wonder my desk and office looked like the aftermath of a force five hurricane. She even blamed my receding hairline on the fact that I don't make my bed. Now, every time she sees me she gives me a strange look. I know she's thinking I'm a total loser and I probably won't get a raise next year all because of this. Can you help?

Desperate

Dear Des,

On one level, Aunty fears for your mortal soul. After all, daily bed making is right up there with daily flossing. On another level, though, she wonders about your mental state. You know the old saying: a well-made bed is a sign of well-balanced mind. Take heed, my friend—you're on a very slippery slope. One day you don't make your bed, and before long it's all about aiding and abetting terrorists! I'd mend my ways if I were you. I'd also stop blabbering to the whole world [especially in eye/ear-shot of your supervisor] about your less-than-awesome housekeeping practices. And clean up your office and desk, for heaven's sake. Get tidy, already.

Among Ourselves

Vern McKinney, lead worker for Custodial Services, received the 2005 Man of the Year award from the Men's Department at The Lighthouse Church of Washington, D.C., Bishop James Patterson, pastor. The award recognizes McKinney's outstanding volunteer service to members of the Lighthouse congregation.

"Expanding Access with Satellite-Enabled Distance Education," a paper presented by Qi Wang, assistant professor in the Department of Business, at the Third International Conference on Education and Information Systems: Technologies and Applications (EISTA), held in Orlando, Fla., July 14-17, was selected as the best paper of those presented in the session, "Internet-Based Teaching/Distance Learning." Her paper will appear in the *Journal of Systemics, Cybernetics and Informatics*. Further, Wang has been invited to be a Program Committee member for next year's EISTA. Wang will also participate in the February 13 to 15 International Virtual Conference for Teacher Educators, "Opening Gates in Teacher Education, 2006: Meeting the Challenges in Education and Teaching," as a panelist for a presentation entitled "Technology-Supported Solutions for Special Populations." At the conference, she will discuss preliminary findings from her current research on an instructional delivery system that blends e-Learning activities (virtual labs, simulation, animation, etc.) with classroom instruction to improve Gallaudet students' mastery of CIS and CS content. Wang's project is funded by the Gallaudet's Small Grants program, administered by the Gallaudet Research Institute. The conference website is vc2006.mcam.ac.il/pre/. It is sponsored by the MOFET Institute, the consortium of Israel's 43 colleges of education.

South Africa: great challenges, great opportunities



Dr. Ava Morrow (left), an associate professor in the Department of Biology, gathers with other members of a delegation of microbiologists who traveled to South Africa in October to participate in a professional exchange with scientists and physicians at the Institute of Infectious Disease and Molecular Medicine at the University of Cape Town.

By Dr. Ava Morrow, associate professor,
Biology Department

On October 16 I joined a delegation of microbiologists traveling to South Africa to participate in a professional exchange with scientists and physicians at The Institute of Infectious Disease and Molecular Medicine at the University of Cape Town. The topic of discussion was the impact of infectious diseases (HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria) on the people of South Africa.

It was estimated that 28 percent of South Africa's 40 million people are infected with HIV. Further complicating their health problems, 40 to 50 percent of those diagnosed with HIV are also infected with tuberculosis. In addition, HIV/AIDS appears to increase the impact of malaria.

Participation in the professional meetings, observations of the townships, and interaction with members in the communities left the impression that HIV/AIDS is a complex medical, social, political, economical, cultural and humans rights problem that indirectly or directly affects everyone regardless of social status.

Although AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria are treatable and preventable diseases, lack of access to health care facilities, complex drug regimens, illiteracy, and inadequate supply of educators and health care providers are barriers that prevent many from receiving adequate treatment.

The problem is also evident at the local level. The increasing prevalence of HIV/AIDS in Washington, D.C., and the surrounding metropolitan area are also cause for alarm. Locally as well as globally, prevention is the major strategy for ensuring a reduction in new HIV infections. I plan to continue to educate the public about HIV/AIDS. In addition, I will inform the public about research conducted on microbicide products (gels, creams, sponges and suppositories), which are able to prevent HIV and other sexually transmitted diseases. We must also lobby our elected officials for a more robust research budget so that microbicides (a female empowered preventive product) will soon be accessible. ■